

REMARKS / ARGUMENT

A. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1, 2, 4 -10 and 12-22 are pending in the application. By this response, Claims 1 and 9 are amended and claims 2, 6, 8, 10 and 16 are cancelled. In the office action having a mailing date of February 13, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 8-10, and 12-16 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,502,131 to Vaid et al ("*Vaid*") in view of U.S Patent No 6,101,541 to *Ellessen* et al. ("*Ellessen*") and rejected Claims 17-22 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Vaid*.

B. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the determination made by each edge device as to whether the health and status information is to be transmitted to the policy server according to condition thresholds set by the policy server (page 36, lines 22-32) and that the policy server provides a centralized reporting venue for the transmitted health and status information (page 37, lines 8-24), and that the health and status information of each edge device includes resource usage statistics (page 34, line 35 or page 35, line 6).

The Applicant respectfully suggests that the cited art, taken together or separately, neither disclose nor suggest the invention as presently claimed in claim 1. Accordingly, the invention as claimed in claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Claims 4 and 7 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 4, 5, 7, and 17-19 further clarify or limit claim 1 and accordingly are patentably distinguishable over the cited art.

The Applicant has amended claim 9 to include the testing steps, by the first and second edge devices, against at least one test condition established by the policy server, as to

whether to transfer the first and second health and status information to a log collecting and archiving module maintained at the policy server; the step of periodically receiving, at the policy server, the first health and status information from the first edge device and the second health and status information from the second edge device; the step of storing, at the policy server, the first health and status information and the second health and status information in an archive database; and the step of creating, via the policy server, reports based on the first and second health and status information.

The Applicant respectfully suggests that the cited art, taken together or separately, neither disclose nor suggest the invention as presently claimed in claim 9. Accordingly, the invention as claimed in claim 9 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Claims 12 and 14 have been amended to depend from claim 9. Claims 12 -15, and 20-22 further clarify or limit claim 1 and accordingly are patentably distinguishable over the cited art.


C. CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12 - 15, and 16 - 22 are presently allowable and accordingly the present application is in condition for allowance and the Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

A fee for this Request for Continued Examination of \$770.00 is enclosed. Should there be any additional fees in the prosecution of this case, your office is authorized to draw from the firm deposit account number 02-3979. Should you have any questions, or identify any problem, I would appreciate a telephone call so that this matter may be resolved promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

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